



THE AUSTRALIAN ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

# LINNAEAN GAMES

27 – 30 SEPTEMBER 2015, CAIRNS

## Competition Guidelines

### Introduction

The first Australian Entomological Society (AES) Linnaean Games will occur in conjunction with the [AES Conference 2015](#), to be held 27-30 September 2015, in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. The game is an adaptation of the Entomological Society of America Linnaean Games, which is a lively question-and-answer competition on entomological facts played between university-sponsored student teams. Unlike the American version, competitors at the AES Linnaean Games are represented as individuals (i.e. no teams), such that five winners (a champion and four runners-up) will be awarded. These five winners will subsequently be invited\* to form a team to represent Australia and receive sponsorship\* from AES for the Linnaean Games at the upcoming [2016 XXV International Congress of Entomology](#) (ICE2016), to be held 25-30 September 2015, in Orlando, Florida, USA.

\*Invitation will be extended to students eligible for participation in the Linnaean Games at ICE 2016, and sponsorship from AES is an AUD\$500 prize towards conference travel per student. This team can then undergo preparation and training in their own time to suit the style of games at ICE2016.

### Linnaean Games Resources

Find out more about the Entomological Society of America Linnaean Games, as well as its previous winners, [here](#).

In addition to this resource, all registered participants will receive a welcome guidebook (electronically) that includes preparatory questions for the games.

### Eligibility

In order to participate at the AES Linnaean Games, you must:

1. Be a student in a degree program (Bachelors, Masters, or PhD) at a recognised educational institute in Australia, or have completed such a degree within one year prior to AES Conference 2015.
2. Complete and submit the registration form (see below under [How to participate](#)).
3. Be an active member of AES (for more information, click [here](#)).
4. Be registered for the AES Conference 2015 (see below under [Dates, Venue and Registration for AES Conference 2015](#)).

Non-eligible conference participants and supporters are welcomed to attend the AES Linnaean Games as silent observers.

## Dates, Venue and Registration for AES Conference 2015

The exact timeslot for the AES Linnaean Games is to be confirmed, but will occur in a two-hour timeslot during the AES Conference 2015, to be held 27-30 September 2015, at the Pullman Hotel in Cairns, Queensland, Australia. The AES Linnaean Games will **not** coincide with any symposia for the conference, so conference speakers and/or poster presenters can participate in the games.

As such, an eligible participant must also be a registered participant for AES Conference 2015. Click [here](#) for more information about registering as a conference participant. You may register for a single day registration, but this is discouraged.

## Game Format

Unlike the American version, the AES Linnaean Games takes its own format. However, the competition questions will be pitched at a similar difficulty (see [Competition Questions](#)).

There are four sections to the AES Linnaean Games, each will last approximately 20 minutes. The sections are held consecutively within the two-hour timeslot for the Games. In each section, a set of 20 questions will be asked by the moderator. Contestants are to write their responses for each question down on answer sheets provided. Questions will be repeated twice by the moderator, but will not be repeated at the end of each section. The four sections are briefly described:

Section 1: Multiple-Choice Questions (questions will also appear in slides)

Section 2: Short Answer Questions (usually one or two word answers, questions will also appear in slides)

Section 3: True or False Questions (questions will not appear as slides)

Section 4: Short Answer Questions (as in Section 2, but questions will not appear as slides)

This game structure aims to assess both the contestant's knowledge and aptitude, as well as to provide a less stressful environment that would otherwise be created by a 'trivia-style' contest. At the end of each section, the answer sheets will be collected and points will be awarded for correct answers. The scores will not be disclosed until the closing ceremony of AES Conference 2015 (30<sup>th</sup> September 2015). All contestants are encouraged to be present at the closing ceremony, when the winners will be announced and their AES Linnaean Games prizes be conferred.

## Competition Questions (and Examples)

Questions and answers are prepared by the 2015 AES Board of Directors. They include subject material from the following areas: (1) biological control, (2) behaviour and ecology, (3) economic and applied entomology, (4) medical, urban and veterinary entomology, (5) morphology and physiology, (6) biochemistry and toxicology, (7) systematics and evolution, and (8) integrated pest management and insect-plant interactions. Some subject areas span multiple disciplines such as apiculture, molecular entomology, disease vectors etc.

Do not be discouraged from participating if you are not a subject matter expert on all these areas. The objective is for you to do your personal best, and for the AES Linnaean Games organising committee to put together a team of winners that collectively share expertise in all these areas.

Some examples of questions and their answers are provided:

1. With respect to population growth, what term in the logistic equation is not present in the exponential equation? (**Answer: k, the carrying capacity**)
2. Where was the insecticide 'spinosad' discovered? (**Answer: Puerto Rico, under a rum still**)
3. What is the causative agent of malaria that has developed resistance to chloroquine? (**Answer: *Plasmodium falciparum***)
4. Mating plugs are common in several insect orders. Name one of these orders. (**Answer: Diptera, Hymenoptera, Lepidoptera, Orthoptera, Coleoptera or Isoptera**)
5. Provide the common name of the lepidopteran featured prominently in the movie 'Silence of the Lambs'. (**Answer: death's head hawkmoth**)

More information and example questions will be provided in the welcome guidebook, given to all students who register for the games.

#### How to participate

You must register in order to participate at the AES Linnaean Games. The closing date for registration is 30<sup>th</sup> August 2015. If you have registered and wish to withdraw your registration, please contact the organiser using the [Contact Details](#) below.

To register, click [here](#) and follow the instructions.

If you are not an AES member and also registered for the AES Conference 2015 (see above under [Dates, Venue and Registration for AES Conference 2015](#)) on the day of the games, you will unfortunately be disqualified from the competition.

#### Contact Details

The AES Linnaean Games 2015 is organised by the AES Board Director for Student Relations. Please direct any queries, concerns and suggestions to [Gurion Ang](#) at 07 3365 2196 or [gurion.ang@gmail.com](mailto:gurion.ang@gmail.com).

